

K-207

Marshy Point
Near Locust Grove
c. 1720's

Marshy Point is located on the Sassafras River between Island and Freeman Creeks. It was originally known, in the 17th century, as Harmon's Point, but a resurvey was undertaken during the ownership of William Pearce and the name was changed at that time. Pearce owned the parcel from the late 17th century until he deeded it to his son, Daniel, in 1720.^{1,2}

The house on Marshy Point was situated near the middle of the farm, but at the head of a small gut which empties into Island Creek. Built either by Daniel or by his son and heir, Andrew Pearce, both had lived on the plantation. The house, in its original form, was a one-and-a-half-story structure, three bays long, with central doors on each facade which were flanked by two 6/6 sash windows. There were two similar sized dormers built on each side of the 'A' roof. Its framing members were distinguished in the use of gunstock corner posts. (Only a few examples of these remain in Kent County.) The ceiling joists were exposed and beaded in both the hall and parlor. The two rooms were divided by vertical beaded board partitions. The fireplace wall was covered by paneling which incorporated two closets and an enclosed stair. The second floor was originally divided into two small rooms.

Andrew Pearce remained on Marshy Point until he sold it in 1747 to Isaac and Hannah Freeman, who had lived on the west side of Freeman Creek.³ Isaac gave that portion of Marshy Point which contained the house to his oldest son, Abraham, in 1756.⁴

By 1783, Marshy Point was in the possession of James Woodland. Roughly 75 years later the farm is identified as in the ownership of J. L. Woodland. It has remained in the same family to the present day.

In the latter part of the 19th century, the house had fallen into disrepair, so a major remodeling was undertaken. The kitchen, which was originally located on the east side of the house, was reconstructed reusing some of its hewn members. The main section was gutted and the plan changed from a hall-parlor to a central stair with two flanking rooms. The fireplace dismantled and replaced with stove flues. The north door was eliminated and the south door was made into a double door. Wide eaves with decorative pierced-work gingerbread were added to both sections of the house.

In 1985, the house was in the process of being remodeled when it was decided that it should be moved closer to the river. During the move, the building was reoriented by 180 degrees and placed over a full basement. Two additions to the kitchen were constructed and the original section of the house was converted into a single room with a large fireplace having paneling across the enclosed stair and closets.

Marshy Point has been a tenant house since the late 18th century, with short periods of occupancy by Woodland family members.

1. Wills, Lib. 1, fol. 207 (1720).
2. William Pearce was an important figure in early Cecil (later Kent) County, holding offices of importance in the legislature and as Sheriff,

Justice, vestry man of Shrewsbury Parish and in the local militia. By the time of his death, he held 1450 acres and his personal estate was valued at @1153. Likewise, his son Daniel held positions in the Lower House, was a surveyor for Cecil County and later Clerk. He was also a vestryman at Shrewsbury Church and served as a captain in the militia. Daniel held over 1000 acres and his personal estate was worth nearly @800. (Pappenfuss).

3. Land Records, Lib. JS 26, fol. 98, 134, 217, 274.
4. Wills, Lib. 4, fol. 6.

K-207

1690-1725

Marsh(y) Point

Near Locust Grove

Private

In 1985 the frame of the old two-part house at Marsh Point was moved northeast 2/10 mile from its original, somewhat inland location on the Shallcross Neck farm to a bank overlooking the Sassafras River. It was pivoted so that, though its axis remains east-west, what was the south side now faces north. The house was then rebuilt to modern standards of comfort but with a sensitivity to how it might originally have been before it was remodeled during the nineteenth century. The now-eastern 1-1/2 story section is three bays wide with central entry both front and rear; there are two dormers in each roof slope, over the side bays. This section probably dates from the early eighteenth century or even the late seventeenth. Its original plan was hall-and-parlor, though it was rebuilt with one large, unpartitioned room. The narrow, enclosed straight central stair that had been added in the nineteenth century was removed and a new corner stair built in the northeast corner, the location of the surviving gunstock corner post (though it had been reduced in size for nineteenth-century lathing and plastering). The plates, joists, and second-storey floor boards visible in this room are beaded. The now-western section is two bays wide and a true 1-1/2 storeys in height. It was added as a kitchen wing in the middle to late nineteenth century. It was probably at this time that the entire structure was "Victorianized," including roof details that featured a fascia of pierced sawn work. Originally flush with the early section on the now-south wall, its roof during the recent remodeling was extended (as a cat-slide) to cover a new entry/utility room and small porch. On the now-north side, where the

wing had been inset about four feet from the early section and there was a porch, the roof was also extended and pitch changed for a large family room-sunroom. The kitchen wing no longer appears to have been a true 1-1/2 storey structure. Though rebuilt, this house is a rare, early survivor and documents one type of dwelling built by early settlers along the Sassafras River. When built, it would have been considered a spacious, high-quality house.

Maryland Historical Trust

State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Marsh Point (preferred); Marshy Point

and/or common

2. Location

At northeast end of long land on east side Shallcross Neck Rd.,
street & number 2 miles north of Rt. 213, northeast of Locust Grove not for publication

city, town Locust Grove ☒ vicinity of congressional district

state Maryland county Kent

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Mr. & Mrs. Robert L. Bryan

street & number 109 N. Water St. telephone no.: 778-1141 or 348-5221

city, town Chestertown state and zip code Maryland

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Court House liber EHP 30

street & number Cross Street folio 214

city, town Chestertown state Maryland

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title Maryland Historic Sites Inventory - HABS Inventory

date September 18, 1968 ☒ federal ☒ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records Maryland Historical Trust, 21 State Circle

city, town Annapolis state Maryland

7. Description

Survey No. K-207

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> moved	date of move
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			1985

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

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(Continued)

8. Significance

Survey No. K-207

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1690–1725 **Builder/Architect**

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☐ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

Though rebuilt (not really restored, for there was not enough left to work with), the house documents the very early settlement along the shores of the Sassafras river and its creeks during the late seventeenth and early eighteenth centuries. It is important to know that this house type and form was being built in this location in Kent County. Especially if the old section dates from about 1700, when life in Kent County was still difficult and emphasis was on providing for the bare necessities, it would have been considered a high-quality, spacious dwelling. The old Marsh Point farmhouse is a rare survival from the early period of Kent County history (though from 1674 to 1706 this area was part of Cecil County). Most of the early frame buildings deteriorated (due to rot, termites, and neglect) and were abandoned, or were demolished and replaced by larger dwellings built during periods of prosperity in newer styles that came into fashion.

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Quadrangle scale _____


H

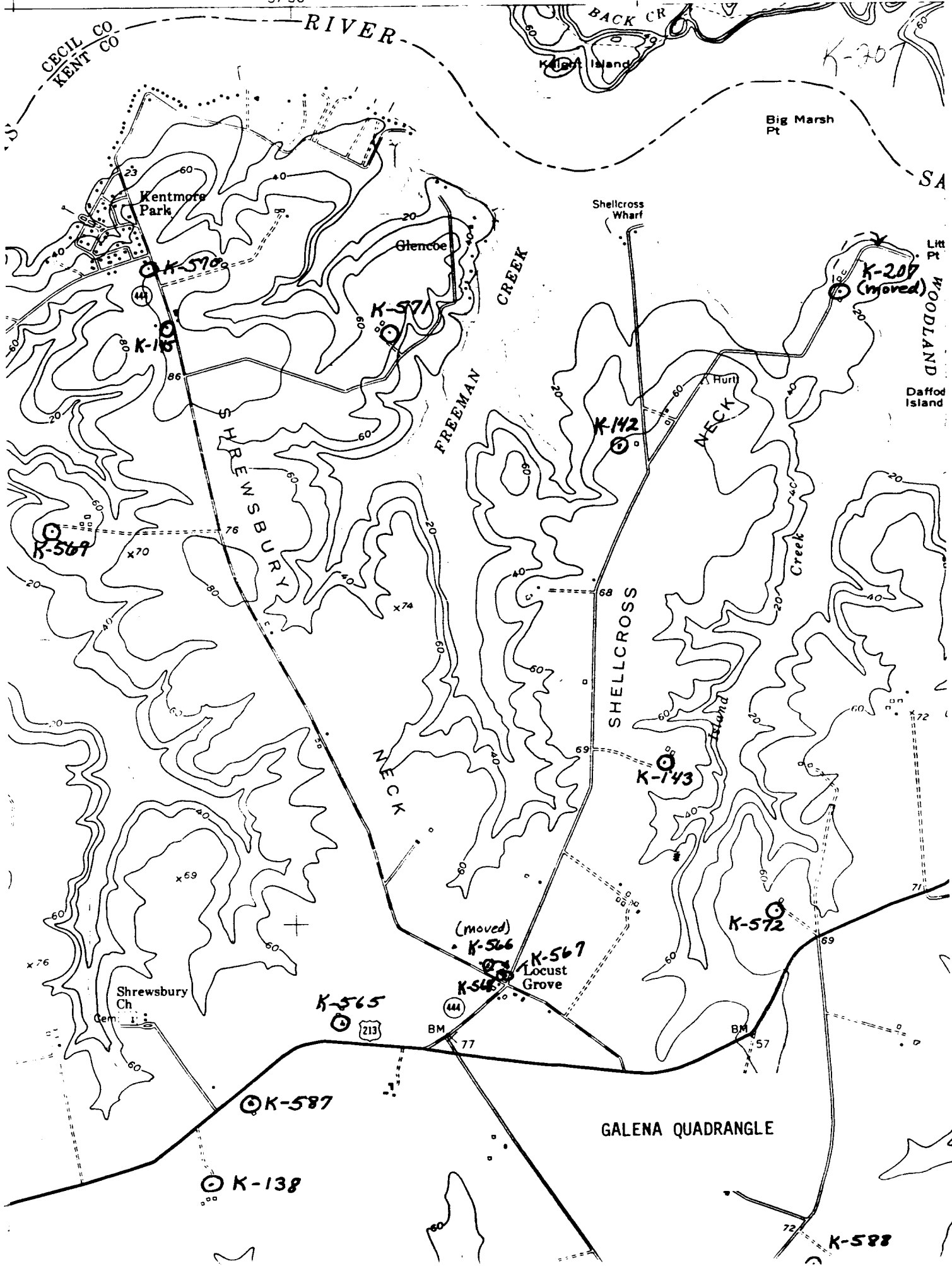
Though heavily reworked over the years, when the house was stripped to the frame for the rebuilding, some old details and material fragments were discovered. The old section was built over a crawl space, with heavy sills of oak, several of which have been reused, though one may itself have been a previous replacement. When the kitchen wing was added in the nineteenth century, a cellar was dug for it, rebuilding in the process the old end foundation wall of the early section. Although the evidence is not clear, there may originally have been a chimney at that end of the early section (now the west end), for a pile of old bricks was found there. The new kitchen wing, which was three sided, was, however, built with a fireplace and chimney within it at the common wall. It is possible, of course, that the brick pile is of no significance and that the early section had only one heated room.

Only one apparently original door has survived and been re-used. It apparently had been between the two second-storey chambers. It has 2-over-2 panels, raised and beveled on one side and plain and recessed on the other. The hinges now on it are replacement HL hinges, but paint ghosts show that the original hinges were also HL.

By the time of the rebuilding the original windows were long gone. Victorian double-hung, 2-over-2 and 6-over-6 windows had been in place. After the frame was stripped, where a window opening had been covered, evidence was seen of a former window that was shorter (4'-2" high) than the evidently first replacement windows had been. The old width is not known because a new stud had been inserted. The present windows have sash with 12-over-12 lights and are larger (to admit sufficient light) than the originals apparently were.

The old section also reveals early joinery, at the junction of gunstock corner post with plate, as well as elsewhere. The rafters are half-lapped at their apex and pegged. They evidently were mortised, tenoned, and pinned to the second-storey floor joist, with a partly open mortise at joist end. The tie beams (though only two survived the nineteenth-century remodeling, when the second-storey ceiling was raised) were half-dovetailed and pegged.

1. STATE <u>Maryland</u> COUNTY <u>Kent</u> TOWN <u>Kennedyville</u> VICINITY <u>Locust Grove</u> STREET NO. <u>Shallcross Road - 2 1/2 miles NW</u> <u>Locust Grove</u> ORIGINAL OWNER <u>Isaac Freeman</u> ORIGINAL USE <u>dwelling</u> PRESENT OWNER <u>E. L. Westcott + H. H. Deringer</u> PRESENT USE <u>vacant</u> WALL CONSTRUCTION <u>frame</u> NO. OF STORIES <u>1 1/2</u>	HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY INVENTORY <u>K-207</u> 2. NAME <u>Marshy Point</u> DATE OR PERIOD <u>possibly 17th Cent.</u> STYLE <u>Colonial - remodeled - 19th cent.</u> ARCHITECT BUILDER 3. FOR LIBRARY OF CONGRESS USE
4. NOTABLE FEATURES, HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE AND DESCRIPTION OPEN TO PUBLIC <u>no</u> <p>Marshy Point is a small frame 1 1/2 story dwelling which appears to be a victorian cottage. It is 3 bays long with central double door, 3/2 sash in the windows, cutout gingerbread at the eaves and 2 19th century dormers on the "A" roof. There is also a 2 story wing on the east of the house with an asymptotic roofline. Inside the house, there there are exposed beaded plaster at ceiling height, a a raised panel door, and old floors which appear to date at least from the 18th century. There is a room on each side of an enclosed stair. The house is in very poor condition and may be allowed to collapse if the present owners don't do something with it.</p> <p>To the east of the house is a large log plank meat house with vertical boards cover the exterior.</p>	
5. PHYSICAL CONDITION OF STRUCTURE Endangered <u>yes</u> Interior <u>poor</u> Exterior <u>poor</u>	
6. LOCATION MAP (Plan Optional) 	7. PHOTOGRAPH
8. PUBLISHED SOURCES (Author, Title, Pages) INTERVIEWS, RECORDS, PHOTOS, ETC.	9. NAME, ADDRESS AND TITLE OF RECORDER <u>Michael Bourne</u> DATE OF RECORD <u>Sept 13, 1963</u>





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Marsh Point

Shallcross Neck Road, near Locust Grove

M. Q. Fallaw 12/4/85

View to southwest

K-207-27



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Marsh Point

Shallcross Neck Road, near Locust Grove

M. Q. Fallaw 12/4/85

View to northwest

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